



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 22, 2016
Government Administration and Elections Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Robert J. Klee

Senate Bill No. 16 - AN ACT INCREASING AGENCY EFFICIENCY IN THE REGULATION PROCESS

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Senate Bill No. 16 – An Act Increasing Agency Efficiency in the Regulation Process. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP strongly supports this proposal which will help LEAN and streamline state government and the regulatory process. Regulatory staff in both DEEP's Environmental Quality and Environmental Conservation branches work diligently to, among other things, support a myriad of permitting programs; provide outreach and technical assistance; engage with stakeholders; conduct inspections; write and review policy documents; and, when necessary, commence informal and formal enforcement efforts in order to ensure compliance with applicable statutes and regulations. In light of the new economic reality we face, and limited agency resources, DEEP would welcome any improvement to the regulation adoption process that would limit our involvement and expenditure of resources to only truly necessary regulatory proposals.

For example, sometimes regulations originally mandated by the General Assembly become obsolete for a variety of reasons, including, but not limited to, when the issuance of a general permit or a new federal requirement effectuates the goals of the General Assembly, without regulation. The proposed bill would allow the Department head to conserve limited agency resources by making a determination that the regulation is not necessary, while maintaining transparency and appropriate oversight of such determinations, through the Department's certification explaining its determination to the Governor, the Attorney General, and the standing legislative regulation review committee.

DEEP also supports the proposed bill's goal of streamlining the process for (1) making technical amendments or repealing an existing regulation, and (2) adopting emergency regulations.

In summary, DEEP strongly supports this bill's laudable goal of increasing efficiency in the regulatory process.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov .